GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1283
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
IRREGULARITIES IN PURCHASE OF CGHS UNANI MEDICINES
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 479 on July 23, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be collected?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee set up by the Governmentfor the purpose has given its report. The recommendations in the Enquiry Report are given at Annexure-A

The Government has examined the Inquiry Report and it has been decided to accept it in Toto.

(c) & (d) In view of (b) above, the questions do not arise.

ANNEXURE-A

The Committee recommends that disciplinary action should be initiated against the following:-

a) Dr. M. Shamoom, the then In-charge UMSD and Member Secretary of the Purchase Advisory Committee is solely responsible for not getting the approved supply of Tab. Neurotone and received supplies of underweight -tablets in spite of the note recorded by the PAC. He did not take up the matter with the concerned firm while placing the supply orders. Not only were the supplies received they were dispatched to the dispensaries for further distribution. Therefore, the work and conduct of the officer is unbecoming of a Govt. servant and he has failed in performing the duties and responsibilities attached to his post which has resulted in the loss to the exchequer as full payments have been made for the underweight supplies received from the firm. Further, he has tried to mislead the authorities by justifying the irregular act of the firm.

b) The Chairman and all Members of the Purchase Advisory Committee have failed in discharging their duties in not out rightly rejecting the underweight medicines while approving it with a clause. No efforts were made even in the next meeting to follow up the note recorded on the approval statement.

c) The Members of the Inspection Committee have also failed in dischargingtheir duties effectively while knowing specifically about the objection of underweight medicines recorded by the PAC and failed to ensure proper supply.

d) The then Addl. Director, CGHS and Chairman for having put the same members in both, PAC and the Inspection Committee and for not having initiated proper and timely action despite complaints even though he was Chairman of the PAC.

RECOMMENDATIONS:-

(a) At present the Purchase Advisory Committee comprises of Addi. Director,CGHS,MSD,Dy. Advisor, ISM,4 Unani Physicians, Account Officer, CGHS and CMO In-charge, UMSDand the Inspection Committee comprises of Dy. Advisor ISM and 2 Senior most In-charge of CGHS Unani Dispensaries. The Committee recommends that since the Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homeopathy is now a separate department of Ministry of Health s Family Welfare;that the Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy is the cadre controlling authority for doctors belonging to Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy streams; that it administers a number of councils belonging to Indian System of medicines ana Homoeopathy disciplines,it is not appropriate for doctors from Allopathic stream to head the Purchase Committees/Inspection Committee for drugs for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, etc. In fact, the credibility of the recommendations of such committees headed by the Modern System of Medicine doctorsi s itself questionable. In view of these, the Committee recommends that it is for the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy -to

constitute both the PAC as well as the Inspection Committee at their level along with terms of referenceof each committee separately. The Chairman and Members could be chosen by the Dept. from amongst the Specialists/Doctors of eminence in the respective fields. The PAC shall be responsible for finalisation of formulary, registration of firms and placement of supply orders. These Committees can however, report to the Director, CGHS.

(b) The Committee found that some of the members of the PAC and theInspection Committee were common. The Committee recommends that both the Committees should have different set of members and should be revamped as per CVC guidelines periodically.

(c) The Committee found there were no clearcut guidelines for the PAC or the Inspection Committee or for the Store in Charge. It is suggested that the powers and responsibilities of the PAC; of the Inspection Committee and of the Store in charge be delineated clearly to ensure greater transparency and for registration of credible firms.

(d) The Committee was dismayed to note that even basic weighing devices were not available with the Unani Store.The store should be at least reasonably equipped with some basic testing devices.

(e) Greater official monitoring at all levels is required. Rather than reacting only on complaints. Frequent inspection need to be carried out.

(f) In-service trainings for CGHS Unani Doctors in Unani Pharmacopia can be arranged which will update and enhance their knowledge/efficiency.

(g) Since there are no specific Lab tests for these Drugs the Committee recommends that the PAC may consider inserting i penalty provisions in the contracts to take action against supplying firms failing to conform to standards/specification as required.

(h) The Committee recommends that a Special Audit and 100% physical verification of medicines be got conducted in all CGHS Unani dispensaries for the last three years.